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November 16, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

During your transition process, I joined a bipartisan group of 27 Senate colleagues in signing a letter encouraging you to increase United States government support for Ukraine in their existential struggle with a hostile and increasingly emboldened Russia. Most importantly, that letter encouraged your administration to quickly expand military support for Ukraine, particularly in the form of long-overdue defensive lethal assistance. I write now to reinforce that request.

I have visited Ukraine twice this year to support the mission of Oklahoma's National Guard training Ukrainian forces. Both trips have brought into stark relief the gravity of the situation there. The military land-grab Russia has launched in Ukraine is unprecedented in modern European history. Since then, Russia's continued aggression and repeated refusal to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity warrants a strong response from those of us who respect the rules-based international order. Our response should include lethal military hardware as part of a broader effort to help Ukrainians defend themselves and deter future aggression.

In his September 26 nomination hearing to be reappointed as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph Dunford confirmed that both the Department of Defense and the State Department had officially recommended approval of lethal defensive aid to Ukraine. The U.S. Senate just passed the FY18 National Defense Authorization Act, which again authorizes lethal defensive assistance.

I respectfully request that you swiftly approve this aid for Ukraine. In doing so, you will send a powerful message of support to our allies, and an unmistakable demonstration of resolve and strength to our adversaries. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator